

EXPANDING SMOKE-FREE AREAS

WORKING TOWARD A FAIR SOLUTION

By Mayor Gene Winstead

WHEN FACED WITH A DIFFICULT DECISION, it is my job as Mayor to provide a forum where all interests are considered, all options are weighed and the solution is for the overall good of the community. Many cases in which people have opposing views are brought before the Council. The recent smoking ban ordinance is one of them.

There are several sides to the smoking issue. Health advocates are concerned for the health and well being of our citizens, workers and guests. The hospitality industry wants to accommodate all patrons and to make sure their businesses are not competitively disadvantaged. Then there are people's rights – those who feel they have the right to smoke and those who feel they have the right not to be exposed to secondhand smoke in public areas.

In February, the Council asked the Bloomington Advisory Board of Health (ABH) to study the issue of smoke-free work places including restaurants and bars. In June, the Council heard a proposal from the ABH to expand

smoke-free areas in places open to the public and workplaces.

At a public hearing in July, the Council adopted a broadened smoking ban ordinance, but it is not the first in the state. Duluth and Olmstead County already had bans in place. Many other cities and counties statewide, including the metropolitan area, currently have smoking ban ordinances on the table or have recently approved bans. Such ordinances are clearly a national trend. Across the country, 182 cities have laws that require restaurants to be smoke-free and 134 require that of bars.

The Council felt that we enacted a comprehensive workplace ordinance that took Bloomington businesses into consideration. We heard from the hospitality industry that they didn't want Bloomington to be the only city in the metropolitan area to ban smoking in the workplace. To ensure that businesses would not be at a competitive disadvantage, I worked with the mayors of Minneapolis and St. Paul for a target enforcement date, and put forth a

motion to enforce the no smoking ordinance in workplaces on September 1, 2004, and in establishments issued on-sale alcoholic beverage and charitable gambling licenses and permits on March 31, 2005. The later dates allowed surrounding communities with smoking bans under consideration to make their decisions and it also gave Bloomington businesses ample time to adjust.

Throughout U.S. history, on local, state and national levels, citizens have elected officials to weigh competing interests and make public policy decisions. While some may still have opposing views on the smoking issue, the Council worked hard to ensure that the decision was fair and in the best interest of the overall community.

To read the Bloomington Advisory Board of Health study and recommendations on smoke-free workplaces go to our Web site, www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keywords: Smoke free.

TRANSPORTATION

CONNECTING AMERICAN BOULEVARD BRIDGE NAMED FOR FORMER CITY ENGINEER

A GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY IN August signaled the beginning of construction on the bridge over I-35W in the American Boulevard corridor. The bridge is a critical link to the parallel arterial that will provide Bloomington residents with an alternative way to travel across the community. The route will also help ease congestion on I-494.

The bridge will be named the Lyle Berg Bridge, in honor of the retired Bloomington traffic and transportation engineer. For more than 36 years, Berg worked tirelessly to obtain right-of-way and roadway easements, and to protect the usefulness of the roadway system. His efforts resulted in an estimated savings of \$200 million to the City.



The Mayor, City Council, City staff and MnDOT representatives celebrated the start of construction of the bridge over I-35W.

According to Public Works Director Charles Honchell, Berg had the foresight 34 years ago to create the vision of an important ring route parallel to I-494. "The bridge over I-35W is the key piece missing from the fulfillment of his vision," Honchell said. "It is fitting to honor his long and productive career by dedicating this bridge in his name."

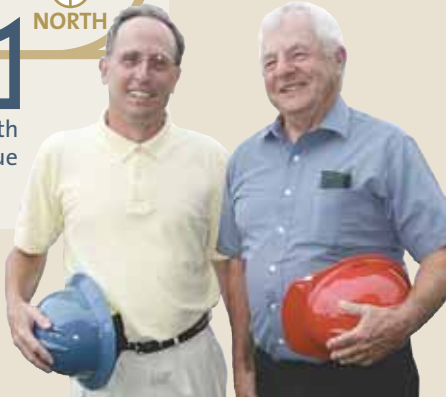
The \$12.5 million bridge project is being constructed by Lunda Construction Company and is scheduled for completion in fall 2005. A federal

grant funds 80 percent of construction costs. The City of Bloomington and the Minnesota Department of Transportation also support the project.

To learn more about American Boulevard and other street construction projects, go to our Web site, www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keywords: Construction projects.



Mayor Gene Winstead announced the naming of the American Boulevard Bridge for Lyle Berg, longtime Bloomington traffic and transportation engineer, at a groundbreaking ceremony in August.



BRIEFING

Volume 12, Number 5

The *Briefing*, published bimonthly by the City of Bloomington, is mailed directly to our residents and businesses. Direct comments to Communications Administrator Diann Kirby, City of Bloomington, 1800 W. Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington MN 55431-3027; PH 952-563-8818; TTY 952-563-8740; FAX 952-563-8715; E-MAIL dkirby@ci.bloomington.mn.us. If you require Braille, larger print or computer disk, contact Diann Kirby.

Visit our Web site at www.ci.bloomington.mn.us

BLOOMINGTON CITY COUNCIL



Mayor
Gene Winstead
952-888-1258(h)
gwinstead@ci.bloomington.mn.us

Councilmember At Large
Dave Abrams
952-833-0505(h)
dabrams@ci.bloomington.mn.us



Councilmember At Large
Amy Grady
952-884-6502 (h)
agrady@ci.bloomington.mn.us

Councilmember District I
Steve Peterson
952-884-3262(h)
speterson@ci.bloomington.mn.us



Councilmember District II
Heather Harden
952-835-5919(h)
hharden@ci.bloomington.mn.us

Councilmember District III
Steve Elkins
612-578-2103(c)
selkins@ci.bloomington.mn.us



Councilmember District IV
Vern Wilcox
952-854-1425(h)
vwilcox@ci.bloomington.mn.us

Elected officials are presented by the City of Bloomington for informational purposes only.

COUNCILMEMBERS

council@ci.bloomington.mn.us

CITY MANAGER

Mark Bernhardsen 952-563-8780
citymanager@ci.bloomington.mn.us

DIRECTORS

Larry Lee, <i>Community Development</i>	952-563-8947
llee@ci.bloomington.mn.us	
James Truax, <i>Community Services</i>	952-563-8717
communityservices@ci.bloomington.mn.us	
Lori Economy-Scholler, <i>Finance</i>	952-563-8791
finance@ci.bloomington.mn.us	
Ulie Seal, <i>Fire</i>	952-881-4062
fire@ci.bloomington.mn.us	
Kent Michaelson, <i>Human Resources</i>	952-563-4898
kmichaelson@ci.bloomington.mn.us	
David Ornstein, <i>Legal</i>	952-563-8753
legal@ci.bloomington.mn.us	
John Laux, <i>Police</i>	952-563-8701
police@ci.bloomington.mn.us	
Charles Honchell, <i>Public Works</i>	952-563-8731
publicworks@ci.bloomington.mn.us	

The City of Bloomington does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status or status with regard to public assistance in employment or the provision of services. The City of Bloomington does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its programs or activities. Upon request, accommodation will be provided to allow individuals with disabilities to participate in all City of Bloomington services, programs and activities. The City has designated coordinators to facilitate compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), as required by Section 35.107 of the U.S. Department of Justice Regulations, and to coordinate compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as mandated by Section 8.53 of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Regulations. For information, contact the Human Services Division, City of Bloomington, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington MN 55431-3027; phone: 952-563-8700; TTY: 952-563-8740.

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON BRIEFING, OCTOBER 2004